

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04115 090954Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 090840Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9962

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4115

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR PGOV LE US

SUBJECT: SECURITY

1. WHILE SECURITY APPEARS GOOD THIS POST-ELECTORAL MORNING, LEFT GAVE RATHER CONVINCING DEMONSTRATION YESTERDAY THAT IT STILL HAD PLENTY OF AMMUNITION. THAT ELECTION JUST SQUEAKED THROUGH WITH THE DEPUTIES, AS LOCAL PRESS REPORTED, "GREEN WITH FEAR".

2. JUMBLATT'S LEFT CONTINUES TO ISSUE DEFIANT ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALLING FOR THE MASSES TO REBEL. IF THEY DO, THEN WE HAVE ANOTHER FORM OF CIVIL WAR.

3. PRESIDENT SARKIS' FIRST TASK WILL BE SECURITY. HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH THE FORCES IN HAND IF ALL HE HAS TO COPE WITH IS GENERALIZED UNLAWFULNESS. IF IT IS CIVIL WAR, HE WILL QUICKLY REALIZE, HE DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FORCE AT HAND.

4. I EXPECT, THEREFORE, THAT HE WILL TURN TO THE SYRIANS. IF HE DOES, I HOPE WE WILL OPEN THE DOOR THAN WE HAVE. ISRAEL SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S NOT RPT NOT IN ANYONE'S INTEREST, INCLUDING ISRAELIS, TO SETCLEFTISTS BATTLING CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLARIZING THE LEBANESE INTERNAL PROBLEM EVEN MORE, ATTRACTING MORE SUPPORT FROM EXTREMIST ARAB STATES, AND, PERHAPS, IN FACT, TOPPLING NEW FRAGILE GOVERNMENT.

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LATTER EVENTUALITY WOULD ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO PARTITION

AND CREATION OF LEFTIST CONFRONTATION STATE.

BROWN

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